Carolina Country

formerly CAROLINA FARMER

North Carolina

JULY 1971

I have been meaning to write you for several months about your fine article, "For Every Man a Bird of Hope," in the December issue of Carolina Country. I have never read an article so true and expressed so well.

Coach Tom Young
Rt. 6, Lexington

I just want to take this opportunity to let you know how much I enjoy Carolina Country, especially the article in the February issue, "Who Are the Poor?" It was very good and smartly written and I was so happy you weren't ashamed or afraid to mention God's name. God bless you for it.

Mrs. Billy P. Prince
Rt. 1, Germanton

I read with interest your April editorial, "The Logical Way to Train More Doctors," most of which I agreed with . . . I also wish to compliment you on the fine article, "The Family Doctor." Having been in practice for 50 years in a small town, I understand quite well what the problem is, and Dr. G. has hit the nail on the head.

J. Street Brewer, M.D.
Roseboro

For some time I have felt compelled to write and say "Congrats" on Carolina Country. Have followed closely and with keen interest articles in the magazine (including) your statement on the many newspapers remaining alert in N.C. to all issues involving the public. Am looking forward to becoming a year round resident in Scaly Mt.

Jim W. Duke
Bradenton, Fla.

You hit the jackpot in the May issue. The editorial and two articles on drug abuse are the answers to a long search for suitable information for use by Extension Homemakers Club leaders in giving programs. As a bonus, the article on environment is also excellent.

Mamie C. Swayer
Camden

Before I moved to my present address, I was served by an electric cooperative. Now I am being served and am dealing with a power company. My light bills are higher and I now realize if it were not for the cooperatives we would have to pay even higher electric bills because there would be no competition to keep prices down and consumers would have to foot whatever amount the companies deemed necessary to satisfy stockholders.

Clarence Settlemyre Jr.
Rt. 1, Riegelwood

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Carolina Country

Read Monthly in More Than 200,000 Homes.

Vol. 3 *No. 7* *July, 1971*

James A. Chaney
Editor

Edward Brown, Jr.
Associate Editor
and
Advertising Director

Betty Twiggs
Carolina Homemaker Editor

Official Publication
Tarheel Electric
Membership Association
P. O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N. C.

J. C. Brown, Jr.
General Manager

COVER — July is the start of the season for summer fun, outings, picnics—and, of course, trips to the many beaches along the coast of Carolina Country. The beaches with their surf and sand draw millions of people not only from North Carolina but many other states, and thousands of the visitors delight in searching for and collecting shells. The color photo is reproduced from an advertisement which Charles Crone Associates, the State's advertising agency, prepared for publication in national magazines. We spotted it in The New Yorker and found it so appealing we wanted to share it with you.

This month . . .

6 CRY BELOVED BARNS

8 A BETTER WAY FOR EGGS

10 WHAT ADS DON'T TELL

12 THE CAROLINA HOMEMAKER

16 HOW FARMERS HOME HELPS

CAROLINA COUNTRY (formerly THE CAROLINA FARMER) IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY TARHEEL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT RICHMOND, VA., 23219. EDITORIAL OFFICES, SUITE 911, BRANCH BANK BUILDING, RALEIGH, N. C. 27602. POSTMASTER, SEND FORM 3579 TO BOX 1699, RALEIGH, N. C. 27602. SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, 75 CENTS PER YEAR. ADDRESS ALL MAIL TO: CAROLINA COUNTRY, BOX 1699, RALEIGH, N.C. 27602.

Something Better Than The SST

The President is properly concerned about the sad state of the once booming aerospace industry and has set up, with a considerable hunk of money, a program to help the highly skilled people thrown out of work retrain for other employment.

So much has been written about the aerospace industry's troubles, the plight of the airlines and the belated junking of the super expensive SST project, that it's clear something must be done to take up the slack in the economy caused by all that has happened and is happening.

One thing that could be done would be to take the hundreds of millions the Administration was so ready to spend to build the SST and use the money to develop modern mass transportation facilities. Such an undertaking not only would beef up the economy and provide jobs for the Ph.D. types, other specialists and workers displaced from the aerospace industry but also would provide solutions to what is becoming the biggest domestic problem facing Americans—the problem of moving safely about in our automobile-cluttered environment.

The same companies, scientists and technicians, who worked out the means of getting men to the moon and back and were ready to produce a supersonic transport we'd never need, ought to be able to come up with better means of traveling on earth. Any industry that can produce a space vehicle, an SST or a modern jet liner should be able to produce air buses and other craft capable of operating in and out of small airports or heliports for use between cities within a state. It should be able to provide us with something better than the present automobiles, trucks and buses for highway transportation, such as monorail systems that wouldn't require as much right-of-way as conventional railroads and perhaps underground rapid transit systems.

At the very least, the President could put the jobless aerospace people to work figuring out simple and convenient ways of carrying people between cities and their airports and making it possible for families to go to the beach or mountains without having to worry about finding a place to park their cars when they arrive.

The mighty effort to appropriate more money for the SST shows we can afford to try, and we must start trying soon.

Jim Chaney

TARHEEL RURAL LINES

a commentary on events and issues important to consumer-owners of EMCs/by J. C. Brown Jr.

Frozen REA Loan Funds Released

URGED ON by influential members of Congress, the Administration in mid-May released $15 million of rural electric loan funds which it had frozen. Congress had appropriated $360 million for the REA electric program this fiscal year, but the Administration had refused until recently to release $15 million of it, despite a tremendous backlog in loan applications.

Still a major problem facing the nation's rural electric systems is a loan need in fiscal 1972 of more than $800 million. The Administration has requested only $345 million in its budget. Release of the $15 million, and the mounting concern of Congress with the Administration's failure to use appropriated funds for clearly documented needs, gives some hope to rural people whose programs have suffered from inadequate budgeting and restrictive monetary policies. Even friendly congressmen had spoken of the futility of voting appropriations in excess of the President's budget so long as he continued to freeze the funds. The release of the $15 million opens the door for seeking adequate funding in the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Among the congressional powers who have come out strongly for maintenance of a strong REA program is Senator B. Everett Jordan of North Carolina. In a letter to key members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Jordan wrote:

"Since 1965, the REA electric loan program has been held down to an annual level of $350 million or less, while the capital needs of the nation's over 1,000 rural electric systems have continued to grow apace with increasing use of electricity and provision of service to new rural members.

"Power loads on rural electric lines double on the average of every 8 years, and the rural electrics are providing electric service to an average of 150,000 new rural members each year. It is not possible to continue to meet today's rural electric needs with yesterday's level of funding. The situation is made worse by the fact that inflation has significantly decreased the real value of $350 million in the years between 1965 and 1971.

"This accumulation of unmet capital needs comes at a time when our nation is facing a critical power supply and power delivery crisis. This is surely not the time to be holding back on rural electric loan funds needed to maintain and improve electric service in rural America, especially in view of the fact that farmers and non-farm rural residents alike are suffering under a number of serious economic handicaps . . ."

Recognizing that it is not likely that the backlog could be cleared up in one year, Senator Jordan recommended that a start be made by appropriating a minimum of $555 million for fiscal 1972.

SENClander of the Month

Like the many other veterans of the rural electrification program, James R. Powell has devoted his life to the development of rural North Carolina. The Wilmington Star News honored him recently as its SENClander Man of the Month. In presenting highlights of the paper's article, Carolina Country salutes along with him all the men and women who have made North Carolina's electric membership corporations community builders.

By Leslie Gruber
Wilmington Star News

An impression of vitality comes through as James R. (Jimmy) Powell tells of successful cooperative endeavors and of the benefits to the agricultural segment of Bladen County.

Jimmy Powell, honored by public officials and agricultural leaders for his efforts to help others through a long life span, still carries the zeal that made him a "dynamo" of progress as county agricultural agent in Bladen County nearly 50 years ago.

When a man retires to a dairy farm—that explains much about that man's refusal to quit active life, for in no other field does the demand of the business require so much time and effort. Powell does admit, however, that his son-in-law partner and mechanization make it possible for him to continue the dairy business.

A hand-written letter from Gov. Bob Scott, dated April 14, describes much concerning Jimmy Powell:

". . . Much of your work has been behind the scenes, such as committee work, attending countless board meetings, etc., but it has been effective work and it has produced a better life for all of us.

"You were shakers and movers (Powell and several other prominent North Carolinians) and got this state moving again in the Depression years and kept it moving since . . ."

However, of all the honors he has received he says of a silver plate from the Elizabethtown-White Lake Chamber of Commerce, "I appreciate that as much as anything because it came from the people who knew me." The inscription reads, "Presented to James R. Powell for Christian Community Service in Bladen County."

He was named the Chamber's man of the year this spring.

While the county agent, he worked long hours "to bring light to the county." Later, he became president of Four County Electric Membership Corporation, which serves Pender, Bladen, Duplin and Sampson counties and which now has 15,000 consumer-members.

Later he helped organize a telephone system which merged into the present Star Telephone Membership Corporation. He still serves on its board as well as president of Four County EMC. He also serves on the board of the Cooperative Tobacco Warehouse in Lumberton which he helped organize.

With all the honors, love of home and of service to man prevades Jimmy Powell. He and Mrs. Powell tenderly describe their pre-Civil War era home, which they have remodeled, virtually rebuilt, or rather built around to create a nice blend of old and modern.

Jimmy Powell came originally from Sampson County. He attended NSCU (then State College) and joined the Army in World War I, returning to State where he received his degree, and came to Bladen County as county agent with his bride in 1924.

In 1953 he was awarded honors by the National 4-H Alumni Recognition Program. In 1955 he was given a citation by the Bladen DAR. He is listed in "Who's Who."

His accomplishments as county agent are a story in themselves. He got

James R. Powell as he received certificate for 20 years meritorious service in rural electrification program.

a cream market going, he helped organize cooperative marketing of hogs and poultry. He was instrumental in organizing a dairy marketing association and served as a board member and chairman of it for many years. Leaving the extension service in 1940, he served as specialist and district supervisor in other government farm programs and later with the Federal Food Distribution Administration.

He was one of the founders of the Fayetteville Credit Association, of the Bladen Farmers Mutual Exchange and Bladen County Forestry Association. He is a ruling elder of the Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church, a Mason and Rotarian.

About retirement, he explains, "I don't care whether I'm retired or not, whatever I do I don't want to stop. You dig your own grave when you stop."

Cry The Beloved Barns

A Pictorial Essay by Ola Forbes Jr. With Photos by Tom H. Forbes

Eastern North Carolina bends to the times, groaning under the weight of fresh years piling on her old barns. We're nostalgic about them now, which is the middle phase of letting go of the past. Function, nostalgia, oblivion: that's how we clean the earth of our grandfathers and their fathers. What's left of the barns may be the last vestige of the original rural culture in the South. We'll never rebuild them; but, on our way to the moon, we can say, "Good-by."

It was a stable full of sedate mules munching the cured oats and grinding the corn off the cobs. The wasted oats were trampled in the stable manure; and it built up in there—the compost, the mule sweat, and the barnlot odors that the oldtimers smell no more.

It's breaking in the middle now, proof the times changed and forgot to tack the oak boards back on. One generation built it; another watches it come down.

They needed somewhere to store the corn and the Irish potatoes, so they built the little barn out back. White onions, hanging along the airy walls, outranked the pungent mice.

One Sunday afternoon, the visiting children slipped in and tasted the bunch of red pepper Grandmother had hanging by the onions. They scrambled out screaming and left the door open.

The farmer's pyramid, built to last, outlasted him. His mummy rests in a dark corner. Old things hang from the rafters. Contentious sparrows under the tin roof nest in the straw from his last harvest.

A gentle wind rattles the loose tin, whines and moans through the cracks in the boards, and closes the complaining doors. The mummy lies still in a dark corner.

You stand on the tippoles at the top and sweat down on Jake who's pushing up green 'bacco. If you hit a rhythm, it don't take long. Down there under the shelter you hear 'em laughing and talking loud, 'cause the women are glad it's on the stick.

The young'uns romp round like they been doing all day, and the mules are restless in the traces. Soon, we gonna take 'em to the lot and leave this old barn by the edge of the woods.

You think it's back there in a field of bushes and grass and that no one has any use for it now. It's so far off the main road you'd miss it if you didn't look that way. But there's value in the old barn. You see, somebody has it in his will, and it's going to his son who lives in California.

Perhaps, a poet paused long enough to pen a poem, or a dreamer could have painted it one somber day and given the rustic artwork to his lover. If only to poets and dreamers, there's value in the old barn back in the deserted field.

There's black land in the East, good enough, they thought, to raise corn and silos on; but when the boys grew up and left, so did the aging ones.

They sold the cows, then the fences fell, and the barn followed. But the silo stands guard over the black land they put their hopes in.

The broomsage and scrub oaks grow where the children played and laughed around the house. When the mosquitoes hummed on the porch, Mom built fires of old rags to smoke them out of the yard.

Hardships like the cold and the year the crops failed, and stumping your toe on a root in the yard are forgotten. You remember the cool water you pumped on the backporch, and how the roof consoled you on rainy nights. But the weeds grow and the trees spread and smother the house, the pump and the memories.

(Ola Forbes Jr. teaches English and French at Aurora High School)

Necessity Eggs On an Inventor

An Idea for a Better Egg Gatherer Could Create a New Surry Industry

If Grady Fowler hadn't hurt his back bumping across the Southeastern United States driving a tractor-trailer rig, the poultry industry may have been denied a great innovation: an automatic egg gathering system.

Admittedly, the term "automatic egg gatherer" is nothing new to those familiar with the business. But an inexpensive egg gathering system that works more efficiently than the two or three others on the market is indeed a welcomed and long overdue addition to the industry.

Fowler, himself a Surry County poultryman, has been in the poultry business for the past 12 years–ever since his back forced him to retire from driving trucks.

He soon realized that gathering eggs by hand was for the birds, so to speak, and three years ago began experimenting with an automated egg gathering system.

Not long into the project, he decided he needed a partner–one who could complement his mechanical abilities and help him to improve the system to peak efficiency. That's when Ben Venable entered the picture.

Venable, also a native of Surry County, was a builder. He had built homes and was adept in pattern and sheet metal work. "The best in the county," according to Fowler.

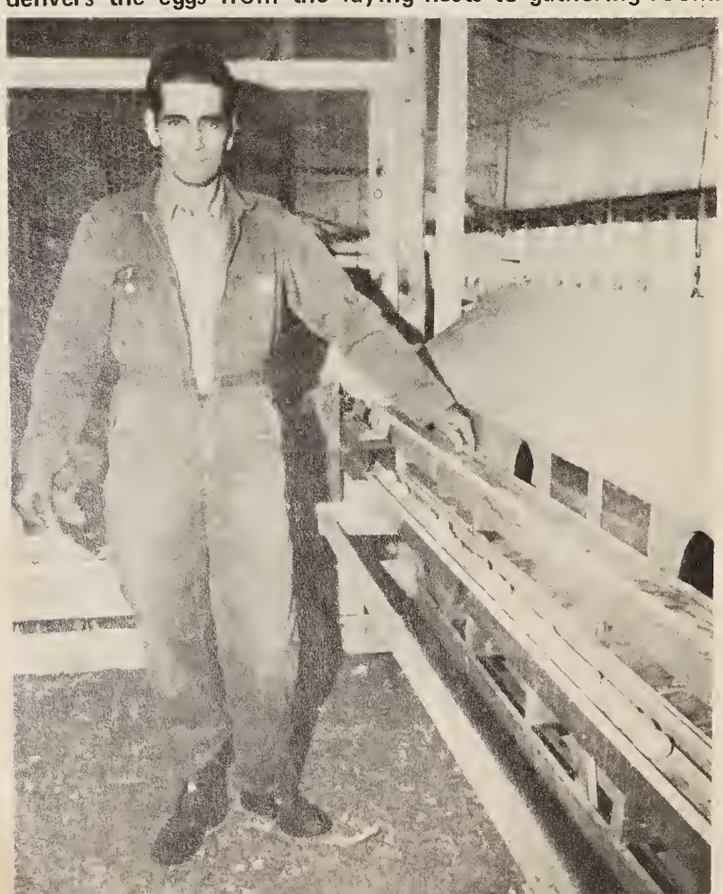
And there was another reason for choosing Ben as his partner in the business to be. "I wanted to keep it in the family," said Fowler.

He made the statement as we slowly rambled along NC601 enroute from Dobson to Harmony on a bright, spring morning in May. It wasn't until May 22 that these two men actually became part of the same family.

That's the date when Fowler's son, Mike, married Venable's daughter, Bennie. The logical question followed: "But . . . how did you know three years ago that you and Ben would be in the same family?"

"Well, they had been going together for eight years," he said matter-of-factly, "and we knew it was just a matter of

Grady Fowler lifts the cover hiding the conveyor belt which delivers the eggs from the laying nests to gathering room.



Brenda Smith collects the eggs from the conveyor belt, dusts and packages them while in air conditioned comfort.

Wayne and Brenda Smith, among the first to own the new system, with the inventors Ben Venable and Grady Fowler.

time. They were just waiting for Bennie to get her education." Bennie recently finished studies at Appalachian State and has joined Surry-Yadkin EMC of Dobson as home economist.

Fowler said that he began tinkering around with an automatic egg gathering system because of "pure necessity." "Labor was hard to get for a seven-day work week and there were also health problems when gathering by hand," he explained.

According to Fowler, approximately 2 percent of eggs gathered by hand are broken as compared to less than half that amount with his system. Breeder houses are usually extremely long (over 400 ft.) and when eggs are gathered and put in a basket and carried that far many of them are cracked.

Fowler, a youngish looking 47 with cold black hair, also had a philosophical reason for developing his invention: "Man is never satisfied with his present status. He always wants to better himself. I could have kept on gathering eggs by hand, but I wanted a better way."

Venable, 53, lives in White Plains just off Highway 601 while Fowler lives four miles west of White Plains in the Union Hill community. His home and poultry houses are served from the lines of Surry Yadkin EMC.

Both men have work shops at their homes and have spent considerable time over the past two years refining and improving the egg gathering device. They have a patent pending on their invention and hope to obtain a loan from the Small Business Administration to build a factory to manufacture the "Fowler Venable, Inc." systems.

The men presently have five of their systems being tested by various poultry companies. They hope to get reports soon that will determine the feasibility of manufacturing the invention.

One of the systems has been sold to a young farm family in Iredell County. Wayne and Brenda Smith of Rt. 1, Harmony have a Fowler Venable system which has been in operation five months.

Wayne lives next to his father's farm which he helps run, including milking 97 cows. "I spend only two to three hours a week here at the breeder house," he said. His wife, Brenda, takes care of the egg gathering virtually by herself.

The Smiths have 7300 hens at present. Brends spends roughly one hour and 10 minutes three times a day gathering the eggs. She merely removes them from a conveyor that runs into the air conditioned gathering room, dusts and stacks them and then puts them in an air conditioned storage room.

On the second gathering Brenda collects from 2700 to 2800 eggs in an hour's time. Gatherings are made at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. And with automatic feed and water systems there is little additional time required.

The Fowler Venable system consists of three main components: nesting units which constitute the conveyor, the conveyor drive, and a vacuum system which cleans the conveyor after each cycle.

Each of the nesting units is 8 ft. long and has a capacity for 30 to 35 hens to lay. The nests are made of foam rubber with a layer of harder rubber on top.

Bottoms of the nests are inclined so that the eggs drop onto a two-and-one-half-inch roam rubber conveyor and are carried into the gathering room.

"The problem with the other systems on the market," said Fowler, "is getting hens to lay in the nests so the conveyor can pick them up. Ours is simpler, half as expensive and better."

Fowler said that other systems use wire under the laying nests instead of the foam rubber utilized in his system.

It appears only a matter of time before groundbreaking begins for Surry County's newest industry—"Fowler Venable, Inc."

Ed Brown, Jr.

What the Ads Don't Tell You About Gasoline

If you like personal attention and having your oil, tires and battery checked and windshield cleaned when you stop for gas, it may not matter to you that cut-rate stations, many of which forgo such extras, sell basically the same gasoline cheaper than your favorite name brand dealer.

As far as gasoline is concerned, all gasoline sold in North Carolina has to meet State standards. The State Agriculture Department's Gasoline and Oil Division checks to make sure it does.

That doesn't mean that all gasoline is exactly the same or that all contains the same additives, but it does mean you can save and still be safe by stopping at stations that charge less per gallon—providing you are willing to do without certain amenities, perhaps check your own oil and tires and, in some cases, fill your tank yourself.

Considering all the advertising claims made by the big oil companies, the average motorist might think there's a lot of difference between gasoline brands and some are far better than others.

There are some differences. Some of the name brands have different additives (which may or may not help performance), some covered by patents. At least one big brand is different in that it contains no lead.

But basically, gasoline is like aspirin: You get the same stuff whether you buy the top brands, the lesser advertised brands or the kind sold by local independents or off-brand chain stations.

That may not be true in all states. But it is true in North Carolina, because North Carolina is one of only 11 states which has fixed minimum standards for gasoline. Through its State Agriculture Department's Gasoline and Oil Division, it makes certain all gasoline sold in North Carolina meets all the minimums.

This means you can buy regular or premium, depending on which gives the best performance in your car's engine, wherever you like in the state, sure of getting full measure and your money's worth.

That's true whether you patronize the cut-rate independent at the edge of town or your favorite friendly big brand service station dealer.

All regular sold in the state has to be at least 90 octane. All premium has to be at least 96 octane.

If the Federal Trade Commission has its way, octane ratings will have to be posted on all pumps in all states.

Some gasoline companies sell gasoline with octane ratings higher than the state minimums—to 100 plus for premium and 94 plus for regular. If they claim the higher octane ratings, the State checks to be sure they deliver them. In fact, State Gasoline and Oil Division inspectors check all stations, pumps and gasoline.

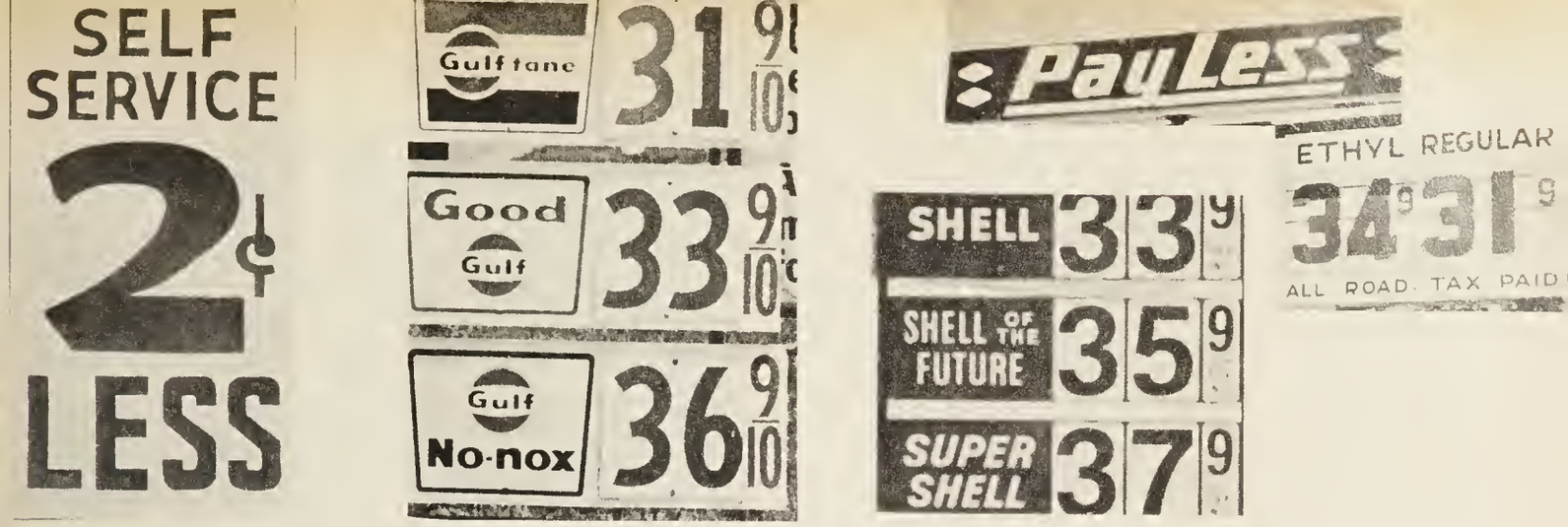
"Fill It Up" - W

By Jim Devine

"Fill it up." When you say the words to the service station attendant, how do you know you'll get exactly the amount and kind of gasoline you pay for?

The Gasoline and Oil Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture answers that question for you by protecting your interest as a consumer.

At least twice a year every gasoline and diesel fuel pump is checked to insure it is delivering the proper amount into your tank. The error factor must be within plus or minus of five cubic inches per five gallons. A cubic inch is about one tablespoonful. If the measurement is correct, a seal is affixed to the pump stating it has been



Octane rating isn't the only thing the Division's inspectors check. Division Director John Moore says there are other important, if not more important, qualities that count in evaluating gasoline—distillation range, vapor pressure at different temperatures, gum content, residue factor, sulphur content and corrosive factor. The State checks all of them.

The standards, or minimums, for all gasoline sold in North Carolina are such that it, regardless of brand or the kind of dealer you buy from, will make your car run the way it should—perhaps even the way some of the big companies say only their brands will make it run.

The off brand or private brand chains and the cut-price independents buy their gasoline from the big oil companies by bid, contract and similar arrangements without making known what brands they're handling. In many cases, it's the same gas the companies sell at their own stations. In some cases, it's not.

At one independent cut-rate station in the Raleigh area, the owner-operator sells as his own one of the best known of well-advertised big brands. And he sells it several cents cheaper than the company's own stations.

He has several sets of pumps operated by attendants. If you buy from a pump with an attendant, you pay about two cents less a gallon than you pay for name brands at most Raleigh stations.

If you want to save two cents more, you can fill your own tank at self-service pumps at a separate island.

It's all the same gasoline, and at name brand stations up and down and across the street, other motorists happily fill up, paying more, confident they're getting something special and better in personal attention and service as well as gas.

Jim Chaney

Say That in North Carolina You Get What You Pay For

nspected and approved by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

If the pump fails to meet minimum standards, a tag is attached marked condemned. It must remain on the pump until it is properly repaired and checked by the NCDA.

If the tag is removed prior to repair and recheck, a fine not to exceed $200.00 and or three months in jail may be imposed by the court.

The specifications governing quality of fuel are equally high. The Department has 12 mobile laboratories operated by 12 chemists located across the state. They may sample gasoline from any station at any time.

They check for octane rating, distillation, vapor pressure, gum content, sulphur content, etc. Should the sample show any indication of not meeting minimum specifications, it is sent to the NCDA labs in Raleigh for complete qualitative analysis. The pump is sealed until a decision is made. John Moore is the Division's director.

From time to time, the Gasoline and Oil Division's Inspectors do uncover cases of fraud. Just recently a case of selling regular gasoline from a premium tank was discovered. The dealer was pumping the regular into his premium tank. He was tried and convicted.

In another case, misbranded gasoline was being sold by a dealer who was buying a discounted product and selling it as a nationally advertised brand. The fuel was being brought in at night. The dealer thought he was being very clever, until he was sentenced.

Qualitative and quatitative analyses are also run on motor oils and fuels used for home heating, and tag tests are run on kerosene and fuel oils to make sure they don't contain gasoline or some other highly combustible agent which would make them dangerous.

The purpose of the North Carolina Agriculture Department's Gasoline and Oil Inspection service is to protect the consumer and legitimate businessman from financial loss and danger. So the next time you say, "fill it up," at any service station in North Carolina, you can say it with confidence.

(Mr. Devine is a member of the Publications Division, N.C. Department of Agriculture).

Dinner's in the Bag . . .

A juicy brown, succulent pot roast with no oven cleanup. It's possible, thanks to a new high-heat resistant plastic bag for oven cooking.

According to Mrs. Ruby P. Uzzle, extension consumer marketing economist, North Carolina State University, "foods, including pot roasts can be placed directly into the see-through cooking bag."

Heat penetrates the clear bag, turning food a delicate brown during cooking. Meat, poultry and fish, cooked in the bag, are tender and moist because of the self-basting properties of the bag.

And there's no need to worry about the bag melting. It can withstand temperatures well over 500 degrees; a higher temperature than normal recipe requirements.

To insure the desired degree of doneness, use a meat thermometer. Just insert it into the meat through the bag.

Natural gravy forms during cooking. To recover gravy after cooking is completed, snip one corner of the bag with scissors and tip pan over a saucer and let the juices run out.

Skim off the fat and keep warm to serve over meat and vegetables.

To serve the meat, just slit at top of bag and lift meat onto a serving platter.

Vegetables and fruits may be prepared in the same type bag, if desired.

Clean-up afterwards is a breeze. You discard the bag and seldom have to wash the pan it rested in.

The bags come packed 10 or eight to the carton. Instructions for use are given in the carton. The clear bags are now available at supermarkets in North Carolina. Try them.

"What's Cooking?"

Down Belhaven way, the phrase "What's Cooking?" means the name of a new cookbook. The cookbook is being sold to provide financial support for the Belhaven Memorial Museum which houses the collections of Mrs. Eva Blount Way.

For those who did not know Mrs. Way, she could best be described as a woman who never threw anything away. She collected everything—from a trillion buttons to the finest china—all of it carefully labeled and displayed for the thousands of visitors that came to see her. Just as Mrs. Way collected treasures, she collected friends. When she passed away in 1962 at the age of 93, the people of Belhaven chose to honor her with a museum which would display her collections as its main interest.

The money from the sale of "What's Cooking?" will go to support the museum. The 116-page cookbook is a collection of many of the "tried and true" and popular recipes of Belhaven cooks. If you would like a copy of "What's Cooking?," you can purchase it for $3.50 by sending a check to: Belhaven Memorial Museum, P.O. Box 141, Belhaven, N.C. 27810.

What's Old

Inside the

Would you buy a cup of coffee for someone to clean your oven for you? Not much to pay for doing that messy job, yet that's all it costs with a modern electric self-cleaning range. The savings in cleaning supplies alone more than pays for this added feature over the life of the range. It costs 35¢ to clean an oven by hand with cleaning supplies. It costs only 7¢ a cleaning to let the automatic self-cleaning oven do it for you. Over a period of fifteen years, the self-cleaning range actually saves you $84—more than enough to pay for this special feature. Remember too the hours of your valuable time it saves.

Most manufacturers use the pyrolytic or heat method. During cleaning the oven is closed and locked. Extra insulation is provided in the oven lining to keep the outside of the range as cool as when you are baking a cake. The high heat does not rule out windows in the oven doors. At least three manufacturers have a special shield which is lifted during cleaning to protect the glass and keep all the heat inside the oven. As the oven goes through the cleaning process, all the soil is decomposed to a tiny ash. The small amount of smoke that develops is removed by a built-in smoke eliminator. The only work you do is to wisk away the remaining ash with a paper towel.

The self-cleaning, pyrolytic oven definitely gives the homemaker the cleanest oven with no manual labor.

What's New

Electric Oven

At least two manufacturers use a cleaning process called continuous clean. Their ranges do not need to be heated above normal cooking temperatures for cleaning to take place. Instead they make use of a special chemical coating which is fused or baked into the porcelain oven lining.

In a continuous clean oven, most small fat spatters are consumed as they occur. Larger ones may remain and be reduced gradually. Carbohydrate soils, such as a pie spillover, will not disappear without special treatment, which usually consists of soaking the spillover with a wet paper towel and treating it with a household cleaner recommended by the manufacturer. Avoiding spillovers is the best policy in a continuous clean oven.

The continuous clean oven definitely has its limitations but it still has gone a long way to minimize the job of oven cleaning.

The cost of manufacturing the continuous clean oven is not as expensive as the pyrolytic process. The finish adds approximately $30 to the price of the range since there are no special cleaning cycle controls, extra insulation, or oven locks needed. Under normal use, the finish will last the lifetime of the range.

Developments such as these made a self-cleaning range or a continuous clean range within the reach of all.

What Most Appliance Warranties Cover - And - What They Don't.

"Don't worry about a thing, ma'am. It's guaranteed!"

Great, you think—no worries. I'll buy it. After all, if anything goes wrong, it's guaranteed.

But guaranteed for what? Parts and labor? What parts and for how long?

The warranty conditions should be one of the most important factors in your decision to buy a certain brand of appliance. Don't be misled by such claims as a "lifetime" guarantee. Talk over conditions with the salesman and read the fine print. Ask these questions:

1. What parts are covered and for how long?
2. Is labor covered? For how long?
3. Who stands behind the warranty—the manufacturer or the dealer? If a dealer goes out of business, be sure you aren't without a warranty.
4. Is the warranty in effect if you move?
5. Do you need to mail a registration card (some have a deadline for mailing) or save your sales receipt?
6. Must you mail a defective part somewhere to get warranty coverage? If yes, who pays for the charge of removing, replacing and mailing the defective part?
7. Must an authorized agent do the work? If yes, what is his address and phone number?

There are certain conditions under which the warranty does not apply. These, of course, differ from brand to brand, but some are standard.

Warranties usually do not cover damage due to improper use, inadequate wiring or plumbing or failure to follow installation instructions.

DISCUSS THE WARRANTY BEFORE YOU BUY

Consumer News

By Thomas J. Bolch

Don't sign on the dotted line until you are thoroughly certain you understand the Financial Obligations and Legal Liabilities you are assuming.

This bit of advice from Attorney General Robert Morgan's Consumer Protection Division could save more dollars for you and other Tar Heel consumers than any other single piece of advice.

Like your fingerprint, your signature is unique. No one else has one exactly like it. Only you can sign it, and affixing it may set into motion events of great legal consequence.

Treat your signature with the importance it deserves, and do not bestow it carelessly. If in doubt, seek information and advice. It usually costs far less to avoid getting into trouble than to pay for getting out of trouble.

You can decrease your risks by always taking certain precautions before signing.

Know what you are signing and what the document contains. Understand clearly what it means. Don't be confused by its title. A "Statement" may be a release of all your claims, or a "Contract" may be a negotiable promissory note.

Read everything. Clauses in fine print are important. Remember, too, that promises not included in writing may be unenforceable. Take nothing for granted.

Check and verify. Be sure the dates, prices, names and conditions filled in are correct. You are bound by WHAT it says, not by what you THOUGHT it said.

Ask questions. Inquire about conditions and items of importance to you. Don't sign unless you understand what it means. Language clearly stating what you want can be inserted.

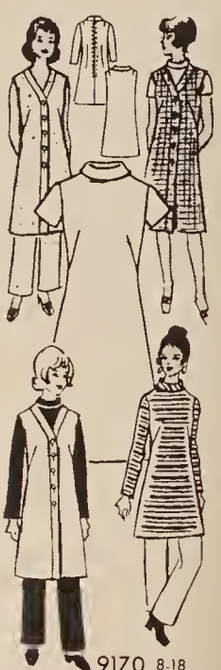
If you don't understand completely every detail, consult legal counsel before signing. Do not rely on the advice or interpretation offered by the party requesting your signature, or upon untrained and unqualified legal "experts."

Retain a copy. Be sure the proper persons sign. Request and retain a copy. Determine whether recording, witnesses or acknowledgements are required to protect you.

The Consumer Protection Division has received numerous inquiries from consumers regarding their responsibility to pay for unordered merchandise received through the mail. North Carolina law provides that unsolicited goods can be refused and that any unordered or unsolicited merchandise received through the mail may be considered a gift and accepted by the addressee without incurring any obligation to the sender.

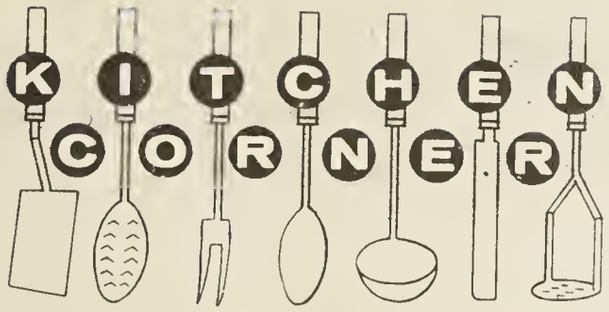
The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division bases much of its work on information supplied by people like you. If you have been the victim of fraud, deception or sharp dealing, please write to the Division, setting forth the details of what happened. Letters should be addressed to: Mr. Eugene Hafer, Assistant Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, P.O. Box 629, Raleigh, N.C. 27602.

Fashion FAVORITES



Pattern No. 9170 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18.
Pattern No. 4576 is cut in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48.
Pattern No. 4779 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18.
Pattern No. 9184 is cut in sizes 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14.

Send 75 cents in coin (no stamps) for each pattern to: CAROLINA COUNTRY, Box 42, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N.Y. 10011. For first class mail, add 15¢ for each pattern.



Old-Time Peach Crumb Pudding

Those fresh fruits and vegetables—in your garden or at the market or the roadside stands across North Carolina—they look so good. And in July the beautiful peaches are ready. Mrs. Horace G. Drawdy of Spindale has sent us a delicious, simple recipe for using these fresh peaches for dessert.

Mrs. Drawdy is a retired home economics teacher and her husband is a retired textile executive. The Drawdys love to travel and last year they spent a month in the Orient and Hawaii. Their home is served by Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation.

If you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share through this column, send it to: Betty Twiggs, Kitchen Corner, P.O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N.C. Tell us something about yourself and family and give us the name of your electric membership corporation. We pay $2 for the recipe chosen monthly for this column.

CAROLINA COUNTRY RECIPE

Submitted by Mrs. Horace G. Drawdy, 105 Pleasant Street, Spindale, North Carolina 28160.

Old-Time Peach Crumb Pudding

18 medium peaches (about 4 lbs.)
1 cup sugar
1¼ cup sifted all-purpose flour
½ cup butter or margarine
Sliced fresh peaches for garnish

Peel and cut peaches into quarters. Combine ½ cups of the sugar and 3 tablespoons of the flour and mix with the peaches. Turn into a 10"x6"x2" baking dish.

Mix the remaining sugar and flour. Add butter or margarine and cut mixture to crumb consistency. Sprinkle crumbs over peaches. Bake in 370° oven for 1 hour until peaches are done.

Free Patterns

Beach Ruffles

Be the belle of the beach in a knitted cover-up with crocheted ruffles—perfect to wear over a swim suit.

Lacy Cover-Up

Crochet this lacy dress in a geometric open-work pattern as a cover-up for summer beach wear.

Tweed Pullover

This sleeveless round neck pullover is compatible with almost everything. Knit it to go with a skirt or pants.

Crocheted Hat

Brighten up the fashion scene with a wide brimmed hat crocheted in many shades of orange or any bright color.

To:
The Carolina Homemaker
P. O. Box 1699
Raleigh, N. C. 27602

This pattern offer expires September 15, 1971.

Please send me the pattern instructions I have checked below. I am enclosing a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope bearing an 8-cent stamp. (Two such envelopes are required for more than 4 patterns.)

☐ Beach Ruffles ☐ Tweed Pullover
☐ Lacy Cover-Up ☐ Crocheted Hat

My name is: _____
Address: _____
Comment; if any: _____
_____
The name of my EMC is: _____

Pursuing a FmHA Boon

If Your Community Needs a Water System, Farmers Home Administration Offers Hope

Perhaps you're peeved . . . because your particular patch of rural America lacks: an adequate water system, or an adequate sewer system, or both, and . . . you're not sure how to correct this insult.

We're not either (Who's SURE anymore?), but, as the situation obviously requires a boon, we would suggest petitioning a proven boon-granted, FmHA.

FmHA is a short (and nearly unpronounceable) name for the well-loved Farmers Home Administration, a dear old agency of the Department of Agriculture.

Rural towns like Kenly in Johnston County now have water and sewage systems.

FmHA is important here not so much for its 1700 offices flung all about our United States (though they are impressive) but rather for its inclination toward and ability to deliver financial assistance: up to $4-million in loans and-or grants on any single project for developing water and-or sewer systems, in rural America!

Chances are you already know your FmHA county supervisor (perhaps you've hunted with him or backed your truck into his car). And so, after you have decided what sort of assistance your group of assistance-seekers seek, form a steering committee and send it to visit this good man.

Incidentally, at this point your hardy band needs neither lawyer nor engineer, but only some sensible persons (maybe yourself).

Undoubtedly the supervisor will be pleased as punch to see you (it is probably in his job description: "Always be at least as pleased as punch."), and chances are he will press upon you a gift.

This gift will be Standard Form 101, and a nicer form you won't find anywhere. Only eight pages long, with only two of those pages demanding answers (the rest duplicates), 101 is also used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

101 doesn't fool around.

It will ask just those questions you would ask a boon-seeker: Who're you? Where do you live? Who and what's the boon to go for? How do you propose to finance this here boon?

101 is obviously attempting to learn if your project qualifies legally for FmHA assistance, which is natural (seeing as how FmHA is bossed out of Washington) and fine (for it shows busy Washington still had time to make a few laws just for you).

So don't fret about your 101 answers, just fill them in fair and square, and then return 101 to your supervisor—with whatever comments you may have received from the clearing house—or houses—in your state.

That requires a wee explanation. Your state loves you (and all its

peoples) and it wants to keep in touch with who's trying to develop and where. All states have clearing houses and some have regional clearing houses as well as the overall state house—your supervisor will know about this. The important thing, however, is to tell your clearing house—or houses—about your project, and then offer their comments to the supervisor. Remember:

Without these comments—or maybe even "no comments," he can do no more for your application. And, sometimes, the clearing houses have been known to grow so pleased that they helped these projects by annointing them with state assistance!

Your supervisor will look over filled-in 101 and the clearing house notes, and then offer suggestions, comments, and, maybe, even a compliment ("My! What a dramatic way to spell Smyyth!").

Then he will forward the package to the FmHA state director.

The director will first attempt to determine if FmHA has the jurisdiction to aid your project. He will examine the package and say to himself things like:

"Is this one of those 'public or quasi-public bodies and corporations not operated for profit which will serve residents of open country and rural towns and villages up to 5,500 population, which are not part of an urban area . . .'?"

He will mull over problems of size, like:

A town of 5,000 and a group of 3,000 people living around the town—but not smack-dab against it—probably would qualify, but on the other hand two incorporated towns of only 5,000 persons apiece probably wouldn't qualify, if they were across the street from each other.

But, despite his constant work with big figures, that director still has time and friendship for small boon-seekers. Why FmHA has provided project assistance to groups of under 15 families!

After kicking around the jurisdiction questions, the director will attempt to determine if there is enough money in his year's budget to help out your project.

It's not just a matter of "first-apply, first-served" either. Oh no! That director will be considering a

A new sign in rural areas.

variety of factors all laid out orderly on Form FHA 442-34, which will give him some idea of what sort your project is and what sort of additional assistance you might qualify for and just how bad off your area is and how that old project might fit into—or fail to fit into—the state's development.

After all, though they had seniority of application, several groups from one county should not receive all the state's FmHA assistance, for it would leave the remainder of the counties with nothing but a "Goodbye Dolly!"

Assume, for a moment, a sad assumption: Your project fails to qualify.

If failure comes on grounds of jurisdiction, your project may very well be eligible for assistance from HUD or EDA or EPA (and now you know why they use 101, too).

If failure comes because there is not, at this time, FmHA money for your particular project, the application will be held for review at least twice. Reviews occur every six months, and, to be optimistic in this pessimistic situation, more than a few water and sewer systems are gurgling away today that, at one time or another, failed to qualify.

In any event your supervisor will let you know.

Let us suppose he has let you know it passed!

Be, by all means, pleased. But, don't grow manic. The director's approval is only tentative—and it is, therefore, not binding.

In the days ahead the director and his FmHA fellows—then surveying a thicker and more exact packet—will pose such queries as:

"Is this one of those groups who are unable to obtain needed funds from other sources at reasonable rates and terms' and who 'have legal capacity to borrow and repay loans, to pledge security for loans, and to operate the facilities or services' and who 'are financially sound and will be effectively organized and managed' and whose 'proposed improvements will serve primarily farmers and other rural residents'?"

But by that time the project will be in the hands of the lawyer and the engineer—those experts that you, having received 101 acceptance, must hire now.

You will have the choice of attempting to squeeze out a bit of money from your group of boon-seekers—or attempting to show how kind and clever it would be for the lawyer and engineer to wait for their pay until after the project is authorized, if it is.

If it is, of course, FmHA funds will pay their fees. But FmHA leaves this initial fund matter to your group. Look upon it as an opportunity to study the vast spectrum of human nature.

From here on out, however, your job will diminish. Oh, there will be a series of meetings in which the group must participate and to which they must bring relevant information and ideas.

But the bulk of the job ahead will be shouldered by the lawyer and the engineer and the county supervisor—your personal "team," upon whom you may shower compliments—or advice.

One day (after the director has looked again, bids have been let and, in the case of a municipality, a bond issue has been attempted and rejected) from faraway Washington you will hear the echo of a fine federal bellow.

And, if you are lucky, it will say: "Start the Digging!"

Then, ah!, you can leave this discourse in that little house out back and step out smartly to receive your boon.

Ted Shepherd

"How Do Teenagers Feel About The Over-Population Issue?"

"I feel many married couples should consider having only one or two children. Less children in the home results in more time to devote to each child's personal needs, as it allows a relaxed family atmosphere, instead of a cramped 'rat race' existence. If a family's financial and emotional situation make it possible for another child to be added to the family, adoption should be given the first consideration. Before people who, already the proud parents of one or two beautiful children choose to have another child, they should consider that adoption would mean one less lonely child in the world."

Diana LaVon Fagan
Rt. 6, Box 269
Burnsville

Diana is 17 years old and will be a senior at East Yancey High School. Diana just moved to North Carolina a year ago. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Sterling Fagan, are served by French Broad Electric Membership Corporation.

* * * * *

"I feel there is really an over-population problem. Everyone can see how much our world's population has increased in just ten years. If we keep on at this rate, just think how crowded our world will be. Many people are against a law being passed saying we can only have two children. They say it's not their problem! But it's really everybody's problem. Our children will grow up never seeing a tree because they will all have to be cut down to build houses."

Julie Willis
Rt. 1, Box 503
St. Pauls

Julie is 13 years old and will be in ninth grade at St. Pauls High School. She enjoys horseback riding, swimming and playing the piano. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill B. Willis, are served by Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation.

"I think the teenagers are very much aware of the issue 'overpopulation.' Many teenagers are now planning their future with this issue in mind. Many couples have more children than they can take care of while others don't have any. It would be wrong to tell people how many children they can have but couples should take such programs as Planned Parenthood seriously. If they do, the population wouldn't increase as fast is it is. Now that pollution is here many people have overlooked the fact that overpopulation is part of the pollution problem."

Linda Kay Sharpe
Route 1, Box 242-A
Macclesfield

Linda is 16 years old and will be a senior at South Edgecombe High School. She is a member of the Beta Club, Student Council and Future Business Leaders of America. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Frank Sharpe, are served by Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation.

* * * * *

"As a teenager, I feel there should be some kind of an attempt to control the population we have in the world today. If parents will sit down and plan in advance, there really wouldn't be any problem. Some parents plan to have a set number of children because they realize how much money it takes to raise a child. A doctor can help a family prevent having more children than it wants."

Marva Ann Lucas
Rt. 1, Box 179
Tar Heel

Marva is 16 years old and will be a junior at Tar Heel High School. She enjoys going to church, sewing and playing basketball. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Lucas, are served by Four County Electric Membership Corporation.

Teen ROUNDTABLE

If you have a good answer, send it to THE TEEN ROUNDTABLE, Carolina Country, P. O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N. C., at once. Tell us a few facts about yourself—your age, school, hobbies, etc. Include your parents' name, and the name of the electric membership corporation serving you. If your answer is published, we will send you $5.

If you want to submit a question, send it along for our statewide panel to answer. For each question used, the sender will get a $5 check. Jot yours down and send it to us right away.

NEXT QUESTION

"Should teenagers have a time limit on the telephone? If so, what should this limit be?"

This question was submitted by Joan Waters, who will be receiving $5 from CAROLINA COUNTRY. Joan graduated from Salem High School. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray S. Waters, are served by Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation.

FHA Honors Farm Family

The Brice C. Campbell family of Iredell County is North Carolina's new FHA Farm Family of the Year.

The Campbells received the Farmers Home Administration Award at a luncheon at Charlotte attended by 400 agricultural leaders, State and local officials and friends.

James V. Smith, head of the Farmers Home Administration, Washington, D.C., made the principal address. Others participating in the program were James T. Johnson, FHA director for North Carolina, and members of the FHA State Committee.

The FHA Farm Family of the Year Award is made to the FHA farm family which demonstrates the most outstanding achievements in farming methods, financial progress, family living, property investment and resourcefulness in overcoming adversities.

The Campbell family operates a modern nursery farm in the northern part of Iredell County near Harmony. The farm consists of 23 acres, 14 of which are used for field plantings, and grows over 140 varieties of trees, shrubs and plants. The FHA award said that the farm, "while small, is probably one of the most efficient in the state."

The Campbells bought their present farm with the help of a Farmers Home Administration loan in 1964 and used FHA financing to improve and develop it. They have three children: Steve, Vickie and Kevin.

Brice Campbell was born in Iredell County in 1925. He graduated from high school in 1942 and served in the Navy during World War II. Mrs. Campbell is the former Hazel Proctor of Yadkin County. A high school graduate, she later attended business college.

SOUTHERN ENGINEERING
COMPANY OF GEORGIA
ARCHITECTS-ENGINEERS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

The Poet's Corner - Verses by Our Readers

The Singing Wires

Often I listen to the Singing Wires
Because they sing a sweet melody.
Once when I listened to them sing,
Then this thought occurred to me.

Those wires must be very busy
Because they have so much to do.
Perhaps if I was just as busy,
Then I'd feel like singing too.

Those Singing Wires convey happiness,
Pleasures that were never known before.
And when the winter's cold wind blows,
What a sweet melody at our door.

Carolina Country enjoys the music
Of the Singing Wires overhead,
For they know they'll enjoy comfort
Though they're fast asleep in bed.

Henry H. Smith
Oakboro, N.C. 28129

NAP TIME

My Mother says
I must take a nap.
But I don't guess
She understands
The things
A little girl thinks about!
The splash of the raindrops
The hum of a plane
Make me wonder about things above.
The roar of a motor bike
Down the road,
The cluck of a chicken
On this summer day
And the tea party plans
Make me dream somemore.
But, I'm not asleep . . .
How could I be!
But, Momma thinks I am
You See!

Dorothy C. Isbell
Boone

GNATURALLY

I wish there were a bug bomb spray
that could slay
and liquidate
the animate
omnipresent gnat
instantly
that playing hide and seek
zigzags errat-
icly around my habitat
where he lives at.

If only I could splat-
ter flat
the mat-
ter of that
ubiquitous acrobat-
ic gnat
that swatted at
becomes invisible,
I wouldn't be fangnat-
ically mizible.

Dorothy Webber
Lake Toxaway

Eve's Curiosity

Simple thoughts
Fulfilled simple need
But didn't satisfy
The hungry mind's greed.
Forbidden knowledge
Was its goal,
Reaching, grasping
Trading soul.

Edna Sawyer
Havelock

SPECIAL OFFER!
Any black and white film 8 or 12 exposure, developed and printed for only 69c
(plus names of 2 persons owning Cameras)
NAME
ADDRESS ZIP CODE
NAME
ADDRESS ZIP CODE
KODACOLOR: 8 Exp. Roll, enclose $1.78
12 Exp. Roll, enclose $2.25
Colonial studio
P. O. BOX 3212, CHARLESTON, S. C. 29407
ESTABLISHED 1910

'Possums Now Are Working For Science

By Clay Williams

Half-formed with undeveloped stubs for hind legs, a brain only partially complete, and many of its other organs just beginning to grow, the baby of an experimental laboratory animal emerges from its mother's birth canal late on a cold winter night.

Barely one-half inch long and 5/1000 ounce in weight, it wriggles blindly amid the forest of hair on its mother's belly as it searches for a nipple the size of a pin head. Finding the nipple, it begins to nurse. Within a few days its jaws fuse so that it cannot release the nipple, and, protected from the outer world by a warm moist envelope of its mother's skin, the infant animal completes, over a period of 2½ months, much of the growth which in other animals takes place in the womb.

The animal, not a product of science fiction but an 80 million year old experiment of nature, is known to science as Didelphys marsupialis but better known to North Carolinians as the 'possum. Thrust into the world only 12 days after conception, it is sufficiently immature at birth to be considered a kind of naturally occurring "test tube" baby.

In studies being conducted by Dr. William Jurgelsky at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, near Raleigh, this "abortion which has learned to survive outside the womb," is being developed as a powerful biomedical tool to provide a better understanding of how the developing fetus responds to harmful agents in the environment.

"Eventually its use may supplement standard techniques in the study of specific problems difficult or impossible to approach in the pregnant animal," Dr. Jurgelsky said.

"The newborn opossum is much like a two-month old human fetus in its ability to serve as a unique animal model for testing the effect of suspected toxins on infant develop," the research pathologist revealed.

Dr. Jurgelsky shows the safe way to pick up a 'possum without getting bit.

"While it cannot replace the usual pregnant laboratory animals such as the rat or mouse in these experiments, especially in the study of the early stages of fetal development, the opossum's semi-embryonic state at birth does give it special advantages where direct studies on growing embryonic tissue in the later stages of fetal development are desired.

"The major advantage of the newborn opossum is that while still in part embryonic, it is in fact independent of its mother except for the mil it drinks and the protection of th pouch. A rat or mouse equivalent i maturity to the newborn opossum only half-way through gestation an still in its mother's womb. T experiment on it, the investigator mu either feed the test material to th mother, risking both damage to h and alteration to the material by h system, or he must remove th embryonic animal surgically, a ver unnatural procedure which obviousl cannot be repeated often on the sam animal. In the opossum growin embryonic tissue is directly accessib simply by opening the mother pouch."

In one series of experiments underway in Dr. Jurgelsky's laboratory, the newborn opossum is being used to gain a better understanding of childhood cancer, next to accidents the leading killer of children. Shortly after birth, the tiny opossums are given a single dose of potent cancer agent through a threadlike plastic tube inserted in their mouth next to the mother's nipple. As expected, the majority of the animals develop cancer of the brain within three to four months. But of these, Dr. Julgelsky was surprised to find that a number also have birth defects, a rare coincidence in other laboratory animals, implying that the opossum may be an ideal animal to use in unraveling the long suspected relationship between cancer and developmental defects.

In a second investigation, Dr. Jurgelsky is using the newborn opossum to learn more about the manner in which toxins, entering the mother during pregnancy, damage the thyroid gland. "In most animals thyroid function begins in the womb where it cannot be studied without affecting the mother. The opossum appears to be better suited to this work because its thyroid gland does not begin to function until about one week after birth, when it can be studied independently of the mother. In one experiment a weedkiller, which has been shown to produce goiter and thyroid cancer in laboratory animals, is being fed to the newborn opossum at high doses in an effort to determine how it produces injury to the thyroid.

"The opposum newborn, because of its markedly undeveloped nervous system at birth, also appears to be an ideal animal model in which to investigate alterations in brain growth and function caused by exposure to environmental toxins during early growth. In a study in progress, opossums injected with one such agent, once per week from birth, develop spontaneous seizures. These seizures, which are similar to those seen in human epileptics, can be triggered in the opossum simply by raising and lowering the animal's front feet from the table top. The ease with which the opossum develops seizures in response to this toxin may make the animal of considerable value in understanding human epilepsy," Dr. Jurgelsky said.

Mama 'Possum: The little thing as small as a cashew nut is one of her babies.

Experiments with newborn opossums were not possible until a way was developed to induce opossums to reproduce in captivity in large numbers. Over the 83 years the opossum has been studied scientifically, no one had been able to breed 'possums in laboratory cages. Successful breeding was possible only when small numbers of the animals were allowed to roam freely in large rooms or in outdoor wooded enclosures.

Dr. Jurgelsky finally worked out the answer by housing the Institute's 'possums in small wire mesh cages which were placed in buildings designed with the help of engineers of the Research Services Branch and veterinarians of the Animal Science and Technology Branch.

The buildings are essentially frame structures covered with screen wire and roofed in part with transluscent material to permit maximum natural lighting. In the facility, 250 animals can be housed under sanitary conditions in individual cages featuring a flip top nest box and a walk through shelf. During the breeding season, from January to June, romance is encouraged by removing partitions between males and females. A technique similar to a "pap" smear is used to indicate when females may be receptive to courtship. The timing is critical, since a female not interested in motherhood will frequently kill the male in short order.

Last year the opossums at the Institute, maintained under the clean semi-outdoor conditions made possible by the new buildings, produced approximately 70 litters of young—probably a world's record for opossums in captivity. Encouraged by this success, Dr. Jurgelsky and his colleagues are not attempting to develop a domestic strain of the animal.

Although it has teken 80 million years, Brer 'possum has finally been brought down from the persimmon tree and onto the laboratory bench.

(Clay Williams is public information officer, State Board of Health).

HALE!

Baby Blue

A single girl came into her office and began passing out cigars and candy with blue ribbons. "What's the occasion?" someone asked.

She proudly lifted her hand to display the sparkling diamond. "It's a boy—six-four and 190 pounds."

Not Her Fault!

Making a wrong turn into a busy one-way street, a woman driver caused an immediate standstill in the large flow of traffic. As the situation grew worse, the woman sat in her car unable to go either forward or backward. Finally a policeman appeared, his face in rage, but the woman beat him to the draw. As soon as he came within her range, she stuck her head out the window and shouted: "And where were you?"

Self-Diagnosis

A nervous woman patient phoned her doctor at a late hour and said, "I now know exactly what's wrong with me! I've got hypoglycemia!"

"Yes, yes, I know," purred the medical man. "I was watching the same television program."

"Not a thing in the house to eat, shall we get rid of them with the old baked lizard routine?"

Tell-tale Sign

Two fathers were discussing their families and children and some of the incidents that arise in daily living.

"My three boys stick together," said one dad. "When one of them gets in trouble, neither of the other two will ever squeal on him."

"But how do you find out the guilty one so you can punish him?"

"That's easy. All I do is send all three of them to bed without supper, and the next morning I thrash the one with the black eye."

"... Better hold on to something. I'm going to clean the kids' room."

No Solution

Psychologists say it is bad to be an orphan, terrible to be an only child, damaging to be the youngest, crushing to be in the middle, taxing to be the eldest.

Obviously, the only way out of all this misery is to be born an adult.

Want to Join Again?

A shipwrecked sailor, who had spent three years on a desert island, was overjoyed one day to see a ship drop anchor in the bay. A small boat came ashore and an officer handed the sailor a batch of newspapers.

"The captain suggests," he told the marooned sailor, "that you read what's going on in the world—and then let us know if you still want to be rescued."

The Easier Way

The banker was clearly exasperated with the man opposite him at his desk.

"Your finances are in terrible shape," he stated. "Your checking account is overdrawn; your loan is overdue—why do you allow your wife to spend more money than you make?"

"Frankly," replied the man with a deep sigh, "because I'd rather argue with you than with her."

Right Parentage

An old bachelor, still fairly spry for an octagenarian, felt it necessary nevertheless, to resist the determined advances of an impoverished but eager widow of thirty-two. "Mother and Father are both against it," he explained gravely to her.

"You're not going to tell me your mother and father are still alive," she scoffed.

"I am referring," he concluded loftily, "to Mother Nature and Father Time."

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The Wall Street Journal Calls Electric Co-ops "Catalysts for a Turnabout in Rural America"

The emphasis North Carolina's electric membership corporations place on community development benefits thousands of rural residents. They have helped promote and establish water and sewer systems, community colleges, and farm marketing and processing cooperatives and are 'n civic, industrial development and rural housing ns. The Wall Street Journal, the nation's leading l daily paper, recently took notice of such utions by electric cooperatives. A condensation of le follows:

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By James C. Tanner
Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

ette, La. — An aggressive new business is beginning e in small-town America. It is called a rural electric ive.

me at least, the nonprofit consumer-owned co-ops mers. Farmers started them in the 1920s with 2% m the Rural Electrification Administration. They e kerosene lamp from the countryside, only to find e than bright lights were needed to keep people down on the farm.

But now the rural electrics are making a comeback—by shedding the farmer image and by becoming activists in their communities.

The new approach by the rural electrics has made a homeowner out of Rodney Savoy. The 23-year-old truckdriver from nearby Scott, La., had given up getting a home loan until he attended one of the meetings on housing being held in this area by Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corp., or Slemco, of Lafayette. The co-op steered him to the Farmers Home Administration for financing and told him how to apply. Mr. Savoy is now building a three bedroom brick home.

The Lafayette co-op gets considerable credit, too, for a yarn products plant under construction at Martinville, reports U. J. Gajan, general manager of Slemco. He should know. After helping St. Martinville get the new industry, he sent Slemco staffers to town to screen workers from the plant.

Samplings of scores of the nation's 1,000 rural electrics indicate that at least three out of every ten are involved in such nonpower projects in the regions they serve, and the trend appears to be snowballing.

"We've got to make the rural areas more palatable to stop the migration to the cities, says W. V. Thomas, general manager of the Wisconsin state association of rural electrics.

Growing evidence suggests the migration already has stopped and perhaps reversed. With new highways and the clean air of the countryside beckoning, more urbanites are moving to smaller towns and commuting to jobs in cities. Many are building weekend and vacation homes in the rural areas.

Obviously, the rural electrics are beginning to benefit. Nationally, these co-ops have 6.5 million meters linked to their lines and are expected to add at least 150,000 more this year. More than half of the 20 million to 25 million people provided power by the co-ops, based on four persons per meter, already are "non-farm" and seven out of eight new customers of co-ops fall in this category.

The metamorphosis in membership rolls is reflected in part by the changing attitudes of the co-ops. "To say we took the lantern off the farm means nothing to most of our members now," says Ronald J. Knouse, manager of member and community services for Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corp., Lenoir, N.C. He notes that only 10% of Blue Ridge's customers derive most of their income from farming, versus 90% 25 years ago.

The rural electrics appear to be uniquely equipped to become catalysts for a turnabout in rural America. "The co-ops, usually the largest single business organizations in their communities, have a corporate citizen interest in this whole matter," says Robert D. Partridge, general manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. "Many millions of future Americans," he adds, "are going to have to have jobs and live in what are now rural areas. The cities can't absorb them, and co-ops need the additional consumers to offset their loss of farm consumers."

Other observers agree. "It's the greatest development idea beyond the city limits," says David A. Hamil, administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration. And Congressman Wright Patman of Texas told the co-ops at their recent Dallas convention: "Slowly we are making headway in this area, but the rural electric cooperatives must still provide the nucleus of any new efforts to revitalize rural communities."

The biggest push by the co-ops is in housing. Their national association lobbied through Congress a liberalization of lending policies as well as additional funds for the Farmers Home Administration. On the homefront, the co-ops began vigorously rounding up home-buyer prospects to use up the $1.5 billion the Farmers Home Administration has available this fiscal year. Many co-ops have begun helping process loan paperwork for the FHA. A North Carolina co-op hired an additional man for this purpose.

Jobs are important, too, and that's why the co-ops are hustling for new industries for their areas (In North Carolina, Tarheel Electric Membership Association has an industrial development director, Ronald Baker, working with member co-ops, State Commerce and Industry Division and Farmers Home Administration).

North Carolina's Blue Ridge Electric says it has brought nine industries to its area in the past 12 months. They include textile, woodworking, metalworking and furniture plants and provide 1,200 jobs. (Herman Anderson, Blue Ridge director of area development, is president of the North Carolina Industrial Developers Association).